**WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS**

**Crop loss due to Monsoon failure**

1761. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the dry spell in Northern India sparks fears of drought;

(b) whether Government are aware that Kharif crops like maize, groundnut and a few varieties of bajra cannot be sown, if there are rains resulting the crop losses to the tune of Rs. 1200 creres; and

(c) if so, how Government propose to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) Upto 24th July, 2002, there was major deficit of rainfall in Northern India leading to appreciable deficit in cropped areas. It will be premature to estimate the losses. However, Central Government is in regular touch with the State Governments and is prepared to extend all possible assistance to the State Governments.

**Projects to forecast crop production**

1762. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the status of Government's project of forecasting crop production through satellite studies and land-based observations, FASAL:

(b) the reasons for the delay in the take off;

(c) by when these projects would really take off; and

(d) how the project would help the small and marginal farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) the Government is considering to implement during the Tenth Five Year Plan the project "Forecasting Agricultural Output Using Space, Agro-meteorology and Land-based Observations" (FASAL).

This project was jointly conceived by the Department of Space and Department of Agriculture and Cooperation during the Ninth Plan. Some delay has taken place because of technical reasons like development of various methods and technologies of using remote sensing data for estimating area and production for several crops and its review by various expert groups and committees.

(d) The project aims to strengthen the comprehensiveness, timeliness and readability of information on agriculture output and other related aspects. This information will enable better management of agricultural sector and efficient use of resources. The benefits of efficient agricultural sector will accrue to all categories of farmers, large as well as small and marginal.

**Replacing vessels of Fisheries Survey of India**

†1763. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of vessels available with Fisheries Survey of India and the details of amout spent on their repairs during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether Government propose to declare these vessels as unusable and to purchase new vessels in their place;

(c) if so, by when new vessels are likely to be purchased; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) At present Fishery Survey of India has 15 fishing vessels in possession. The expenditure incurred on repair of fishing vessels of Fisheries Survey of India during the last three financial years is as under:—

| Year | Expenditure incurred |
|---|---|
| 1999-2000 | Rs. 1,07,07,638/- |
| 2000-2001 | Rs. 6,42,28,410/- |
| 2001-2002 | Rs. 4,20,45,980/- |